

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PHNOM 00460 111016Z

21

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PM-07 INR-10 /026 W

----- 073370

O R 110905Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4502

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 460

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. THE FIRST TRUCK CONVOYS TO TRAVEL BETWEEN PHNOM AND THE DEEP-WATER PORT OF KOMPONG SOM ARRIVED WITHOUT INCIDENT IN THOSE TWO RESPECTIVE CITIES THURSDAY NIGHT AND FRIDAY. CLEARED OF COMMUNIST TROOPS LAST SUNDAY, HIGHWAY 4 WAS QUICKLY REPAIRED BY KHMER ARMY ENGINEERS. THE SOUTHBOUND CONVOY OF 144 TRUCKS REACHED KOMPONG SOM AT 5 P.M. THURSDAY WHILE THE NORTHBOUND CONVOY OF OVER 200 MILITARY AND CIVILIAN VEHICLES REACHED PHNOM PENH IN TWO SEGMENTS THURSDAY NIGHT AND FRIDAY. IT CARRIED SALT AND RICE FOR THE POPULATION OF THE CAPITAL CITY.

2. IN THE FIGHTING NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, THE KHMER ARMY'S FIRST DIVISION, SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND THE KHMER AIR FORCE, WAS REPORTED IN CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST TROOPS ON THURSDAY AS THEY PUSH TOWARDS THE WEST. DETAILS OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PHNOM 00460 111016Z

ENGAGEMENT ARE NOT YET COMPLETE. FIGHTING ON ROUTE 51 NEAR THE

JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 5 TO THE NORTH OF PHNOM PENH HAS COST GOVERNMENT TROOPS LIGHT CASUALTIES. A ONE-KILOMETER STRETCH OF HIGHWAY 51 IS REPORTED IN ENEMY HANDS.

3. COMMUNIST GUNNERS HAVE FIRED ALMOST 200 MORTAR AND ARTILLERY SHELLS AGAINST THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF TAKEO SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH IN THE PAST THREE DAYS. FOLLOWING THE 100-ROUND ATTACK ON TUESDAY, THE COMMUNIST FIRED 40 105MM ROUNDS AGAINST THE TPWN ON WEDNESDAY KILLING THREE MORE CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING EIGHT. THEY CONTINUED THEIR ASSAULT WITH 50 - 105 MM ROUNDS THURSDAY. CASUALTIES FROM THIS ATTACK ARE NOT YET KNOWN. AT THE SAME TIME, COMMUNIST INFANTRYMEN WERE THROWN BACK AS THEY ASSAULTED THE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN DEFENSIVE PERIMETERS OF TAKEO THURSDAY.

4. FANK REPORTS THAT 100 SAMPANS OF A COMMUNIST 200-SAMPAN FORCE WHICH WAS CAUGHT IN THE OPEN ON THE MEKONG RIVER 24 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON WERE SUNK BY QUICK-REACTING KHMER AIR AND NAVAL UNITS. COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE BELIEVED SUBSTANTIAL. EARLIER THURSDAY MORNING KHMER AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS ATTACKED A 10-SAMPAN CONVOY ON THE TONLE SAP RIVER NORTH OF PHNOM PENH AND DESTROYED SIX OF THE BOATS. A KHMER NAVY RESUPPLY CONVOY TO KOMPONG CHAM THURSDAY WAS ATTACKED THREE TIMES EN ROUTE BUT ARRIVED SAFELY AT IS DESTINATION WITH VERY LIGHT CASUALTIES AMONG THE NAVAL CREWS.

5. AT LEAST THREE COMMUNIST 122MM ROCKETS STRUCK PHNOM PENH'S NORTHERN SUBURBS EARLY THURSDAY MORNING. ONE BOY WAS KILLED AT ONE LOCATION AND A MOTHER AND HER CHILD WOUNDED AT ANOTHER. ONE OTHER CASUALTY WAS REPORTED FROM THE THIRD ROCKET WHICH LANDED JUST TO THE NORTH OF PHNOM PENH'S FAMED WAT PHNOM. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, COMMUNIST ATTACKS BY FIRE WERE REPORTED FROM WIDELY SCATTERED AREAS.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RICE, SUPPLIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974PHNOM00460  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** PHNOM PENH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740147/aaaabsor.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 02 OCT 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 OCT 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <18-Nov-2002 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, CB  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005